



**Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER POSTAL EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY  
TO THEFT OF \$30,000 WORTH OF STAMPS**

PHOENIX - Juan A. Ferniza, DOB 12/13/46, of Phoenix, pleaded guilty to Theft of Government Property in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 641 in federal district court in Phoenix on November 16, 2004.

Ferniza had been employed by the U.S. Postal Service for nearly 34 years. During his last several years of postal employment, Ferniza had been appointed to the Postal Service's Stamp Destruction Committee, whose function was to inventory and destroy large quantities of nonsalable stamps, stamped paper and philatelic products that had been returned from post offices throughout Arizona. According to the plea agreement, Ferniza admitted that between November, 2001 and June, 2002, he circumvented the Postal Service's accountability and verification procedures by arranging to be alone with the stamp stock during destruction committee work time, and used that to steal over \$29,600 worth of stamps. Ferniza admitted that he then used or resold the stolen stamps.

A conviction for theft of government property carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. Sentencing is set before Judge Susan R. Bolton on February 14, 2005.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; the prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Tuchi, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-1203-PHX-SRB

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